

SOUTHERN PATRIOT.

MARTIN & KENDRICK,

"BE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT, THEN GO A-HEAD."—Crockett.

[127]

Proprietors.

VOL. 4.

HOUSTON CHICKASAW COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI SEPTEMBER 8, 1849.

NO. 12

THE PATRIOT.

Houston Mississippi.

J. A. ORR, Editor.

Sept. 8, 1849.

A word of explanation.

Our readers will remember an article in our paper of the 29th ult., in which we reprobated the course of Mr. Harris, the whig candidate for Congress, in this District, in reference to his treatment to Colonel Featherston, with their joint appointments. Mr. Harris thinks we did him injustice. But he has authorized us to say that "with the facts before us, he is satisfied that we intended him no injustice." With his statement of the facts, we take great pleasure in informing our readers, that injustice, to a certain extent has been done him. But we will show that he himself is responsible for the misapprehension on our part, and that with the facts before us, we were justifiable in our remarks. The sum of the facts upon which we predicated our remarks are these, that Mr. Harris refused to canvass with Mr. Barry without an endorsement by Col. Featherston, of his (Barry's) "acts, declarations and opinions," when this demand was refused. Mr. Harris paid no further attention to Barry, spoke four and a half hours at Columbus, to prevent a reply and canvassed in Col. Featherston's absence two counties. We subjoin the correspondence of Mr. Harris and Mr. Barry and the written agreement between Mr. Harris and Col. Featherston, and ask any reasonable man, after perusing them if he would not arrive at our conclusion Columbus, Miss. August 17th 1849.

The undersigned, candidates for Congress, in this district, agree to discontinue their appointment until Thursday the 30th inst; and to be resumed on that day, at West Point, Lowndes county. Mr. Harris declining to canvass with Mr. T. S. Barry, for reasons suggested by the annexed correspondence.

W. L. HARRIS.
W. S. FEATHERSTON.

Columbus, August 16th 1849.

FRIEND BARRY:
I am informed, that in filling Col. Featherston's appointments with me you expect me to alternate, with you, in the order of discussion as with him. In thus placing you on full equality as to his privileges, I have to ask that Col. Featherston, will inform me by note, that he adopts you as his representative, assuming as his own, your acts, declarations and opinions—with all the responsibility incident to the new relation in which he proposes to place me.

Col. F. is my opponent. I desire him to occupy the relation of principal in the agency he creates. I wish to avoid useless labor, and therefore to combat no opinions not avowed or approved by him. The canvass is arduous at best, and to undertake to debate the various opinions that may be put forth by private friends of Col. F. might involve an infinite amount, as well as variety of useless discussion.

Please ascertain whether Col. F. will make this arrangement and let me know at your earliest convenience.

Very sincerely your friend,

W. L. HARRIS.

Columbus, August 16th 1849.

FRIEND HARRIS:
Your favor of this morning, I have received and hasten to reply. As to alternating with me, I supposed, that would be the course pursued by us, as I have always understood it to be the arrangement of speakers of the opposite parties who discuss together. I had thought it to be simple justice between opponents whether on the stump as candidates or private citizen—Of course I could discuss in no other manner with any one, than on terms of equality as to length of

time allowed and the succession of our speeches.

As to being Col. Featherston's agent I am such only so far as any Democrat would be who should see fit to reply to you. I propose to accompany you (by request of Col. F. and other democratic friends) that there may certainly be some one of our party to meet you at your various appointments; my agency goes no further, nor do I desire that it should. How far Col. F. may adopt what I or other Democrats may say in the canvass it will be easy to learn by a direct application to him. For myself I shall take the Democratic positions; as I understand them, and I presume the candidate of our party occupies substantially the same ground. You have I believe discussed with him before the canvass.

Very sincerely your friend,

W. T. BARRY.

With this correspondence for our only data we retract not one syllable of our first article but with the explanation given us by that honorable gentleman, & the letter of explanation from Mr. Barry (which is appended to this article) our strictures were too severe, and we would soon to do Mr. Harris the injustice to withhold his explanation from our readers.

It will be seen by Mr. Barry's letter of the 1st inst after the publication of our article that Mr. Harris "declined alternating" with Barry "but was willing to continue their discussions upon the same terms as at at Nashville.

We now call the attention of the reader to the last sentence of Mr. Harris's and Col. F's agreement, (to wit) "Mr. Harris declining to canvass with Mr. W. T. S. Barry for reasons suggested by the annexed correspondence." It will be readily perceived that there is a material variance in the two statements. Mr. Harris affirming over his own signature the fact as we stated it—that he declined canvassing with Mr. Barry. But we do not question the correctness of the last statement.

Our next assertion was that he ceased to recognize Barry as the representative of the party and spoke four and a half hours at Columbus to prevent his reply.

The denial of this assertion places us in quite a delicate position. In a communication which we had before us at the time of writing our first article, from Mr. James Whitfield a venerable old gentleman of unimpeachable integrity, we find the following words. "I was informed by several gentlemen that Wm. L. Harris in his speech at the Court House yesterday of four and a half hours length amongst other subterfuges to enable him to escape the scathing lash of Wm. S. Barry, &c. &c. This is our authority for that assertion. Mr. Harris's explanation is, that he did not know that Barry intended replying to him, until after he had spoken on hour and a half, and when he was apprized of it, it required three hours more time to do himself justice.

The last of our charges to which Mr. Harris demurs is that he canvassed in Col. Featherston's absence two counties.

Mr. Harris's explanation is that when he left Columbus on Sunday morning he was ignorant of the situation of Col. F's family and expected to meet him in Noxubee. We cannot see that this alters the case or even palliates his filling the appointments in Col. F's absence. He knew in Noxubee that Col. F was absent, and he knew in Lowndes the situation of Col. F, and he tells us that when he commenced his speech at Columbus that he did not expect a reply from Col. F or Mr. Barry—Justice to Mr. Harris as well as to our

selves demands that we should be thus explicit in our explanation. We repeat that Mr. Harris is himself responsible for the injustice done him, and of this we put our selves upon the country.

MR. BARRYS LETTER.

HOMER, OKTIBBEHA CTY. Sept. 1st, '49.
H. H. WORTHINGTON:

Dear Sir:—It has been reported, I am informed, that Mr. Harris refused to allow me any opportunity to speak at Columbus, on the 16 inst. The report is incorrect. Mr. Harris declined alternating with me, unless Col. Featherston should adopt as his own, my "acts, declarations, and opinions" as may be seen from the published correspondence of Mr. H. and myself, but was willing to continue our discussions upon the same terms as at Nashville, to wit: Mr. H. to speak one hour, I an hour & a half, & Mr. H. three quarters of an hour. Justice to Mr. Harris requires me thus to correct the report mentioned above. Very sincerely your friend,

W. S. BARRY.

—We clip the following handsome tributary respect, to the memory of our departed ex-President, pronounced by Mr. Rush, our foreign minister:

"LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,"
Paris, July 14th 1849.

The death of Mr. Polk, late President of the United States, has been followed by the wide lamentation of his fellow citizens. Youngest of all the chief magistrates of the Union, he has closed a life, though not full of years, full of honors. As remarkable for the purity of his private life as for devotion to all his public duties in a succession of high trusts, until his country called him to the highest, he descends to the tomb, leaving his country in a state of signal prosperity and his name impressed upon measures which have enlarged her dominions, augmented her resources, and exalted her renown. As a mark of respect to his memory, I recommend the American Consuls in France to display their flag with a badge of mourning, and to American shipmasters in French ports to hoist their colors at half mast the day after they may see this notice.

R. RUSH.

The Cotton Crop.

In 1837 the first blooming of Cotton was on the 27th of May, and the crop was 1,801,497 bags. In 1839 Cotton bloomed on the 24th of May, and the crop was 2,177,835 bags. In 1842, Cotton bloomed on the 17th of May, and the crop was 2,379,460 bags. In 1844, Cotton bloomed May 31, and the crop was 2,080,409. In 1845 Cotton bloomed May 30, and the crop was 2,415,488 bags, Cotton bloomed June 1, and the crop aided by a very late fall, is about 2,700,000 bales. In 1849 Cotton bloomed on the 15th June, and this, with many other reasons; indicate that the present will be a short crop. In the first place, the Cotton was generally up on the 15th of April, on which date we had snow and sleet, and on the three or four following days, heavy frosts which occasioned an almost general destruction of the plant throughout the cotton growing region. This made it necessary to replant, and thus the crop had a very late start. In the next place, after the replanting, there was a drought, which lasted until late in May, and by the time the plant had made its appearance above ground, it had bloomed in the year 1839, 42, 44, 45, and 48. The present crop, therefore, is about three weeks behind.

Again, in consequence of the precarious returns from Cotton planting, and the low prices for several years back, many planters have, to some extent, abandoned its cultivation. Many who have inferior lands who have had any facilities for doing so, have resorted to other expedients. Some have turned their attention to planting rice, some to making turpentine, some to working on

railroads, &c. Thousands of acres of the richest cotton lands in the world have been submerged by the overflow of the Mississippi river and its tributaries, and in consequence of the appearance of the cholera, many plantations have been deserted and the negroes moved to the pine lands. But even this is not the sum of the disasters to the crop of the present season. From about the 4th of July until the close of the month, the Southern and Southwestern States were almost deluged with frequent and heavy rains, and these extended from North Carolina to the heart of Texas, causing the plant to shed its forms, and giving such strength and luxuriance to the grass as in many instances to make it impossible to keep it under. Even should we be so fortunate then as to have a late frost, which would spare the top Cotton, we cannot reasonably expect a crop of more than 2,300,000 bales; and with a frost at the usual time, say the 25th of October, we cannot even reach that low figure.

With these facts before us, with the largely increased consumption of Cotton in Europe and this country and with a currency beginning to feel the expansive effects of the introduction of California gold, we think the prices of Cotton must rule higher the coming season than for some years past. In this matter, however, much depends upon the planters themselves. If by forcing the crops upon the market, and creating a temporary glut they place themselves at the mercy of purchasers, the sales of last year will be repeated, when a large portion of the crop was sold at prices much below its value. If they do not receive a fair price for the present crop, it will either be attributable to their own haste, or it will be demonstrated as an admitted axiom of political economy—that the scarcity of an article enhances its value—is no longer applicable to Cotton, and that there must be some organization to depress the price of our staple under all circumstances.

We annex the following table of the dates of the appearance of the Cotton blooms and of the first frosts by which it would seem that a late spring is almost invariably followed by an early frost:

Year.	In bloom.	1st frost.	Ex't of crop.
1836,	4th June,	14th Oct.	1432 m
1837,	7th May,	27th Oct.	1800
1838,	14th June,	7th Oct.	1360
1839,	24th May,	7th Nov.	2177
1840,	6th June,	17th Oct.	1634
1841,	10th June,	15th Oct.	1683
1842,	17th May,	1st Nov.	2379
1843,	12th June,	15th Oct.	2030
1844,	31st May,	30th Oct.	2394
1845,	30th May,	3d Nov.	2100
1846,	10th June,	1st Nov.	1800
1847,	29th May,	27th Nov.	2348
1848,	1st June,	20th Nov.	2700
1849,	15th June,		

Charleston Mercury.

Gen. Taylor's Progress—His speech at York, Pennsylvania, avowing himself to be a party President.

The latest accounts of Gen. Taylor's progress, bring him to York Pennsylvania. He was there welcomed by the people as the President of the United States, an office to which all pay homage, if they do not to the man by whom it is filled. A procession was formed and marched through the streets of the town, and Gen. Taylor made speech. A correspondent of the Baltimore Argus gave the following sketch of the General's address:

"Fellow-citizens and Ladies:—It cannot be expected, from the fatigue I have endured to day, to make a speech to you to day. I can only say I thank you for this—the kind—oh reception. I can only say I shall endeavor to carry out the principles of the party that brought me into power. I thank you for the honor you have done me this day."

There! Record it. That is the speech of the President of the United States of America, to the people of the borough and county of York, who turned aside from their daily avocations, to do him respect, on the 10th of August, 1849.

"I shall endeavor to carry out the

principles of the party that brought me into power."

That is perfectly consistent with "I'll be the President of no party." I'll accept of a nomination from any party.

But enough is as good as a feast. Suffice it to say, the entrance and exit of the great Rough and Ready into and out of this burg has not added immortal wreaths to his coronet. The day will be forgotten in less than twenty four hours; unless remembered in mortification at the manifest weakness of a great man.

Why did not the people make Henry Clay President? If they had, they would have hung their heads when the President of the United States undertook to make a speech to an assemblage of the people who had convened to pay their respects to him as chief ruler of these States.

The York Gazette, after describing the General's entry and escort into the town, has the following remarks:

We were pleased to see, that although there was little or no display of enthusiasm, members of both parties united in giving a quiet and respectful welcome to the chief Magistrate of our Union. The democrats, though thoroughly united in the conviction that Gen. Taylor's laurels have been sadly dimmed by his numerous acts of bad faith, and as thoroughly united in condemnation of his open violation of solemn pledges—did not use this occasion to manifest their approbation, preferring to express it in another and more educational manner at the ballot boxes. They chose to distinguish between the President of the United States and the man who had forfeited his voluntarily-plighted word—paying due honor to the exalted station of the man, and reserving to themselves to deal as justice may dictate with the man himself.

We should be glad to be able to stop here, or that we could say with truth that the reception so becomingly accorded to the President by all parties, was becomingly acknowledged by the recipient of their courtesies. But Gen. Taylor himself has rendered this impossible, and has imposed upon us the unpleasant duty of mingling a word of condemnation with our notice of his visit to York. He was escorted, as we have said, to the Washington House. His escort was composed of all parties. After his arrival at the hotel, he was conducted to the front portico, and there, surrounded by a whig and democratic committee of arrangements, confronting a crowd of whigs and democrats in the street and just before sitting down to a table sumptuously spread by the hospitality of whigs and democrats General Taylor made a speech! He thanked his audience for the courtesies shown him by the people of York—referred to his position as chief magistrate of the United States—felt very grateful indeed for such an office—and WOULD ENDEAVOR TO CONFORM TO THE VIEWS AND CARRY OUT THE WISHES OF THE PARTY THAT ELECTED HIM!

Gen. Taylor is the first President of the United States who has made the public avowal that he was the President of a party and not of the whole people.—Union

Should the Proscription of Soldiers be Tolerated?

Of all the acts of wrong which the present administration has committed the proscription of soldiers is the most infamous and reprehensible. Never before have the brave defenders of the country, who have risked their lives and bled in her cause, whatever may have been their politics, been hunted down and driven from office—proscribed as enemies of their country, by the government which they have served. And this shameful business has been done, this treacherous and treasonable warfare upon brave, patriotic soldiers has been perpetrated by a cabinet at whose head nominally stands Zachary Taylor, himself a soldier, and who owes his high office and his power to the bravery and fidelity of many of these very men whom his minions, like so many bloodhounds, are hunting down and bringing to the block!

Now what is to be the effect of this base proscription of brave men upon the future interests of this country?—Will they enter their country's service in war, expose their business at home to derangement, if not to destruction, and their persons and lives to risk of battle, if they are to receive, on their return to the pursuits of civil life, nothing but hatred and hostility and proscription from the government which they served? The American people should deeply ponder upon these things. They should ask themselves if the country will be able to procure defenders in future wars, if it shall be guilty of the ingratitude of proscribing and persecuting the men who are willing to risk property and life in its defence. The proscription of the soldiers of the wars of 1812 and 1816 is among the most atrocious of the many acts of flagrant turpitude of which the cabinet of Gen. Taylor has been guilty. We submit to the candid reflection of the American people, if such an infamous system, pregnant with such deleterious influences upon the future interests of the country, should not be stopped—nay more, should not be condemned and branded as infamous by the expulsion from power the men who are guilty of such acts. This subject is worthy of the most serious reflection by the patriotic portion of the American people, to whatever class or party they may belong.

Truman Smith's Pamphlets

We understand that numbers of pamphlets, without any explanation of their author or origin, but supposed to have been concocted by the Wooden-Nutmeg, Abolition Senator from Connecticut, who is hired by those interested in the success of the Taylor dynasty, at the rate of eight dollars a day—is in circulation about here. We have learned from our exchanges that this precious document to which True-man was ashamed to put his name, made its appearance in all the Southern States a few months before the recent elections. Frogs were never so numerous in Egypt as were these documents in Tennessee. They were sown broadcast over the State; but the fruit which they brought forth was "death" to Taylorism. The Taylor leaders reaped what they had sown, in the heavy losses they sustained in that State.

The pamphlet was gotten up to show how Democrats at the North are expressing Free Soil sentiments, and to expose what is called the "coalition between the Democracy and Free Soilers. What a wretched set of nincompoops, the author supposes the whigs of the South to be! He thinks they do not know that there is "a wing" of the Democratic party at the North who are opposed to the South, although it was the defection of this very "wing" that caused the defeat of Gen. Cass. But True-man while he was pretending to publish the truth forgot to state—that there is another "wing" of the democratic party at the North in favor of Southern doctrine. Nor does he state in his pamphlet that every Northern whig is a Free Soiler, and that according to Daniel Webster Northern Whiggery is the synonym of Free Soilism.

We know what Democrats think of Truman's documents, but we are not fully aware of the feelings it arouses in the bosoms of the Whigs. But we would suppose that they would lock with loathing upon the miserable sawn of an Abolitionist who always acted against the South and who during the last Presidential canvass insulted Southern whigs by trying to make it appear that Gen. Taylor, their favorite "Southern candidate" (!) would sanction the Wilnot Proviso!

A story reached our ears, of a singular scheme for raising funds, which was hit upon and put in practice at a donation party held not more than a thousand miles off. It appears that some of the hisable ladies present actually allowed their sweet lips to be tasted at the rate of fifty cents a kiss—this being considered a suitable price for the privilege! If we are not misinformed, one gentleman of the party took five dollars worth!—Sandwich Observer.